

## **Dumont Shade Tree Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes**

July 16, 2012, Dumont Senior Center

7:35 PM

Present: Larry Tobias, Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman, Tom Fisichella, Rafael Riquelme, Ryan Mertz, Councilman Bill Brophy, Absent- Sally Tayeb

**Sunshine Law:** The Dumont Shade Tree Commission has complied with the open public meeting act, having sent notice to The Record, Ridgewood news and filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Borough's Official Bulletin Board.

Motion by Rafael Riquelme to approve the 6/18/12 meeting minutes, second by Ray Slaman. All in favor.

**Tree Maintenance:** Up to date trees removed in Dumont are 39 versus 54 last year. Complaints to date are 72 compare to 84 from last year. Complaints are down because DSTC have a proactive not reactive approach philosophy. About 50% of complaints require no action, because the complaints are resolved with the homeowner. DPW is borrowing a grinder from Emerson DPW. DPW estimates they need to grind about 200 stumps. DPW predicts all work will be done before the year is over. Tree on 83 Johnson Avenue and Washington and Linden will be evaluated and a decision will be made on a plan of action. Tom is requesting a purchase of a soil Kit. Ryan will follow up with Rutgers in regards borrowing or purchasing them.

**I-Tree:** Nothing to report.

**Adopt-a- Tree:** Applications are open for the fall planting. Deadline is in October with planting in November. DSTC planting goal is 20-30 trees for the fall.

**Arboretum:** The Walkway and Gazebo project was approved. John Perkins is working to get some more funding. Ray to reach out to the Town Engineer to discuss design, timetable and layout ideas and input from DSTC. DSTC is proposing a walk thru to discuss project.

**Friends of the Shade Tree, Inc.:** Ryan suggested a separate meeting to discuss and finish the form 1023 application (Tax Exempt Application). Meeting was agreed for August 6, 2012 at 7pm at the Senior Center in Dumont Avenue.

**Community Outreach:** Tom suggested that Joe Ulrich and Ryan Mertz to teach a class in October at the Library. Idea about a monthly DSTC newsletter was discussed. A press release will be written about the Adopt-a-Tree to be published on the Twin-Boro News. DSTC to establish various letter formats and guidelines in regards to complaints, unauthorized removals etc... DSTC had a tent on the Dumont Farmers Market few Saturdays ago. The DSTC will be back at the event Saturday, 7/21/12. This is to create visibility for our commission. Danielle, the coordinator of the event waived the fee to

DSTC. Some donations were received from the sale of Arbor Day T-Shirts. Money will be given to the Finance Dept at the Boro Hall for deposit. An idea was suggested to have a planting ceremony in October during the Farmers Market to create awareness and promote DSTC and the Farmers Market.

**New Business:** Ray to remind Town Engineer about the replacement of trees removed from the brook due to the Phase II Project. The replacement of trees removed were discussed and included on the Phase II project.

Motion to close meeting made by Ray and second by Tom. All approve.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00pm